

THE BULLETIN

A Publication for Alumni & Friends of Valley City State University



Welcome Dr. Shirley!



VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY

VCSU

Nurse Education Comes to Valley City ♦ Insights into IT ♦ Auction Hits the Jackpot



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Welcome to The Bulletin!

| | |
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Above and beyond...

Ellen-Earle Chaffee, President

You make a difference. Every single person who has touched Valley City State University over the years has changed something. As the flutter of a butterfly's wings in China is said to impact weather around the world, when it comes to VCSU there are no insignificant acts.

In that spirit, I want to pay tribute to you by recounting some of the steps we have taken together.

VCSU's mission is to "prepare people for life through visionary leadership and exemplary practices in teaching, learning, and service." Fifteen years ago, *visionary* and *exemplary* were in our hearts but not in our vocabulary. Many at the time thought that including "nationally known" in our vision statement was sheer hyperbole.

The teaching and learning core retained a strong sense of community while attaining new heights in value for graduates. Faculty and staff created a technology-enriched learning environment in 1996, when the Web had only 27,000 pages. Years before digital portfolios became the national standard for assessing student learning, the faculty made them a requirement for graduation. They developed creative learning opportunities like the Medicine Wheel, planetarium, undergraduate research, Fiesta Mexicana, the Learning to Live program for freshmen, and more.

New programs include music business, fisheries and wildlife science, psychology, professional communication, English language learning, health sciences, business software applications, human services, and technology education. After just two years, the online master of education (M.Ed.) program already has over 100 students enrolled for summer, 2008.

Many universities would take great pride in providing core activities at this level, and rightly so. Few go beyond as VCSU has done to benefit students, community, and state.

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providing core activities at this level, and rightly so.
Few go beyond as VCSU has done
to benefit students, community, and state.*

VCSU has founded four successful businesses: Corporate Adventures, Community School of the Arts, EduTech, and Enterprise University. The university played major roles in five more entrepreneurial activities: the President's House Guest Inn, Eagle Creek Software Services, the Regional Technology Center, the Sheyenne Valley Roundtable, and Camp Cyber Prairie. The university has won over \$10 million in grants, quadrupled VCSU Foundation assets, and dramatically increased annual scholarships.

VCSU has the courage to do the right thing, even in significantly adverse conditions – for example, coping with having to share a president and up to seven additional administrators for nine years with another institution, publishing annual accountability reports to the public long before other universities, and serving as a pilot campus for the state's major multi-year administrative software conversion.

In 1993, we had no VCSU Foundation, no graphic standards, no marketing and communication function, no instructional design function, and no modern residence halls. The university has been a *US News & World Report* "Top College" for 10 straight years so far, and won five additional national awards and five state or regional awards. VCSU has been a focus in two books (and another in the making), three national news stories, and major reports by five diverse national associations.

Clearly, these are the achievements of a host of talented, dedicated, hard-working people both on and beyond the campus. Now, we all welcome Dr. Steve Shirley as the new president of VCSU, and with his talents and energy and with your support, I am sure he will lead VCSU to even more new and exciting accomplishments. As I move into a new supportive role, I can hardly wait to see what's next!

Gratefully,

Ellen



Standing Ovations Abound for Dr. Chaffee

The end of the academic year always features a flurry of activities, but the fact that this year marked the final days of Dr. Chaffee's service as president of VCSU gave them all a special meaning.

The first standing ovation she received was at the annual Employee Recognition banquet where she was recognized for 15 years of service to the university.

The next standing ovation came during a banquet specially held to recognize Dr. Chaffee. The event, which was moderated by Alumni Association 2nd Vice President John Monilaws '87, attracted many prominent individuals who were particularly influenced by Dr. Chaffee's tenure. Speakers included President of the State Board of Higher Education John Q. Paulsen, NDUS Chancellor Bill Goetz, Mayville State University President Dr. Gary Hagen, Foundation Board President Tres Christiansen '80, Valley City Mayor Mary Lee Nielson '79, and VCSU Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Joe Bessie.

Yet another standing ovation came at Commencement, when guest speaker and former Senior Vice President of Microsoft Corporation Doug Burgum (who has known Dr. Chaffee for many years) called upon attendees to recognize the final Commencement ceremony over which Dr. Chaffee will preside. ♦



Your Alumni Association is Here for You!

*Are you tired
of being blown
by the winds
of a fluctuating
market?*

*Find security
through a
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What is the VCSU Alumni Association?

The Valley City State University Alumni Association serves as an ambassador for VCSU by promoting communication, recognizing achievements of alumni, arranging for meaningful reunions between alumni and friends and providing financial support to the university. The Alumni Association Board of Directors consists of 18 members, which includes one representative of the Foundation Board and the university president (see list below for the current board of directors). The board of directors represents over 13,000 living alumni and friends.

Board members meet three times a year in Valley City and meetings are typically scheduled in June, October and February. Board members are responsible to cover travel expenses.

The VCSU Alumni Association is a dues-free organization, and all graduates of VCSU automatically become members. Although free of charge, the association provides direct benefits for all alumni providing *The Bulletin* (a publication for alumni and friends of VCSU) three times a year, broadcast e-mail (if an e-mail address is provided), invitations to VCSU events including socials and reunions, and the opportunity to be recognized for one of the many alumni awards sponsored by the association.

What does the Board of Directors need from you?

The Alumni Association is requesting nominations for the Distinguished Alumnus award, the Alumni Service award, and the Certificate of Merit award. Each year the association recognizes members who have excelled in their professional careers, provided extraordinary service to their alma mater, or achieved

noteworthy honors. These awards are presented during Homecoming. We have a number of outstanding success stories in education, coaching, business and other professional careers. Graduates of VCSU have been competitive in their chosen fields, and the Alumni Association wants to hear about these accomplishments. Nominations are encouraged.

For a complete summary of the awards, including criteria, nomination forms and past recipients, visit alumni.vcsu.edu and click on "Awards." Nominations are accepted throughout the year. Those received after July 1 will be considered for recognition during the 2009 Homecoming.

The Board of Directors is always looking for new members. If you are interested in serving on the Alumni Association board or would like to nominate someone please contact Kim Hesch, Assistant Director for Advancement at 1-800-532-8641 ext 7403 or kim.hesch@vcsu.edu.

Another way you can participate is to help us find our "lost" alumni. Out of 13,000 alumni and friends, we have lost contact with 1,500. Please go to our website alumni.vcsu.edu/keepintouch/ and click on "Where Are They" for a list of those lost alumni. If you have a current mailing address that will help us track any of these down, please call our office at 1-800-532-8641 ext 7203.

We're here for YOU!

The alumni office is part of the Office of Advancement at VCSU. Please stop by our office any time you are in the area. The coffee is on and we would love to see you! We are here for YOU! ♦

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to watch the markets.**

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have security.**

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**To learn more about
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2007-2008 VCSU Alumni Board of Directors

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2007-2008 Foundation Board of Directors

| | |
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| PRESIDENT | TREASURER |
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| George Gaukler | |



Visualize Endowment

by Larry Robinson '71, Executive Director of University Advancement

Before the summer months arrive, outdoor enthusiasts will sometimes end their correspondence with "Think Sun" or perhaps "Visualize the Sun." Sometimes they even sport bumper stickers with the same message.

Then, during the fall months, eager skiers may admonish us to "Think Snow." They are passionate about their favorite sport and can hardly wait to get on the slopes.

The idea is to focus positive thinking on something so completely that it might somehow bring it to pass. While things may not actually happen that way in terms of cause and effect, the practice does put people into a mood of expectation, and they begin to plan for the future accordingly.

We also like to think expectantly here at the VCSU Foundation. But instead of "sun" or "snow," we think "Endow." We relish the thrill of creating new endowments and building a solid financial base for the future.

Here are five words to help you also "Think Endow." Each one begins with a letter from "Endow."

The "E" stands for **Enduring**. This is one of the key features of these funds - they last for generations. The monies are kept separate from other funds and invested in a manner to create both income and growth. Endowments form an enduring, dependable source of revenue that provides stability and confidence.

"N" refers to **Need**. While the VCSU Foundation depends on regular annual giving to meet operational expenses, we also need to increase our endowment pool to effectively face future uncertainties and opportunities. The more endowment income we have, the better we can fulfill our mission tomorrow.

"D" means **Doable**. Some of our friends shy away from endowments because they consider themselves financially incapable of creating one. And some steer clear because it all seems so complicated. Both concerns are unwarranted. Actually, most anyone can create an endowment through careful planning. What's more, doing so is easier than people expect.

"O" stands for **Ovation**. Because endowments are so important to the VCSU Foundation, we fall over ourselves expressing appreciation to those who establish or add to one of these funds. In fact, sometimes we think we hear the applause of future generations as they benefit from endowments established today.

The "W" refers to **Witness**. Every named endowment bears witness to the persons behind the endowment as those who believe in the mission of the VCSU Foundation. Such testimony encourages others to support VCSU. It also passes along a message concerning personal values to family members (current and future).

Are you beginning to "**Think Endow?**" If so, use the handy form at the right to request your free information about the VCSU Foundation endowment program. You can also gain information by visiting our web site at alumni.vcsu.edu. ♦

**PLEASE COMPLETE
AND MAIL THIS FORM**

Dear Friends at VCSU:

- ☐ Please send me information about establishing an endowment at Valley City State University.
- ☐ Please contact me about a personal visit.

The best time to call is: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

MAIL THIS FORM TO:

Larry Robinson
VCSU Foundation
101 College St. SW
Valley City, ND 58072
1-800-532-8641
ext. 37203

1

PLEASE REMEMBER...
to include Valley City State University Foundation in your will.

2

CREATE A LEGACY...
by leaving a bequest gift to Valley City State University Foundation.

3

Is Valley City State University Foundation in Your Will?
If not, please consider a bequest.
Your gift will make a difference!

4

Help us serve the next generation.
Remember Valley City State University Foundation in your will.

For a free Will Information Kit, visit www.vcsu.edu or call toll free 1-800-532-8641 ext. 7203



Welcome Dr. Shirley!

Larry Robinson, VCSU's executive director of Advancement presents Dr. Shirley with a VCSU jacket, making him an official Viking.

On April 21, the State Board of Higher Education named Steven W. Shirley, Ph.D., to become VCSU's next president. He took office July 1, succeeding Dr. Ellen Chaffee who announced her retirement in September of 2007 after 15 years of distinguished service.

Dr. Shirley comes to VCSU from Dakota State University (DSU) in Madison, SD where he was vice-president and dean of student affairs. In that role, he had responsibilities with such areas as undergraduate admissions, campus retention efforts, counseling and career services, auxiliary services, student activities, diversity services, new student orientation, financial aid, and university relations. DSU posted record headcount enrollment in Fall 2007 due to continued exploration of new delivery methods and expansion of program offerings.

Prior to joining DSU, Dr. Shirley was a member of the business faculty and director of study abroad at the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC). While at UMC he taught in areas such as marketing and promotion, global business, marketing research,

and advertising. He has also taught at the undergraduate level at the University of North Dakota and the graduate level at South Dakota State University. During his career, Shirley has been involved in enrollment growth (both program-specific and university-wide) and has experience working with athletics to leverage the unique opportunities it provides.

Dr. Shirley holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Teaching & Learning: Higher Education, a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) in Marketing and Global Business, and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Marketing and Management, all from the University of North Dakota. Dr. Shirley's PhD dissertation is titled, "The Gender Gap in Post-Secondary Study Abroad: Understanding and Marketing to Male Students," and it was published by the American Institute for Foreign Study Foundation. He is also a graduate of the Institute for Educational Management at the Harvard Graduate School of Education Program in Professional Education. ♦

A note from Dr. Steve Shirley... Greetings VCSU Alumni & Friends!

As this copy of *The Bulletin* reaches you, I will have just begun serving as VCSU's new president, so it seems an appropriate time to introduce myself. One of the accompanying articles summarizes my professional background, so here I would like to focus on a more personal introduction.

I am extremely proud to be a native North Dakotan and product of the North Dakota University System. Having the opportunity to come "back home" and serve in this capacity is tremendously exciting, humbling, and rewarding. As I have found to be true for many people here, involvement in the community is extremely important, and I look forward to becoming active in Valley City and the surrounding eastern North Dakota region. I am a firm believer in service and giving back through volunteerism and service clubs. As such, I have been active in Rotary for nearly 10 years including previously serving as president of the Crookston, MN club. Additionally, the past couple years I have served as a third-grade classroom volunteer with Junior Achievement. Activities such as these provide a great way to get involved, and I look forward to becoming active in Valley City.

One of my favorite hobbies is travel. Over the years, I have had the good fortune of traveling internationally including some extensive travel throughout Western and Central Europe and Brazil. On several occasions I have had the pleasure to lead both student and faculty groups abroad for educational and cultural purposes. I am a firm believer in international education and deeply value the rewards that can be gained therein. One of my most rewarding international experiences was the opportunity to teach conversational English in Slovakia through a church mission project. I also enjoy combining sports with travel; I have a lifetime goal of seeing a game at every major league baseball stadium, every NHL hockey arena, and attending all four of the professional golf majors (I'm making progress, but still have a ways to go!).

Other personal hobbies include collecting sports memorabilia, attending live concerts and musical performances (wide variety



Passing the torch... Dr. Chaffee congratulates Dr. Shirley on being named to become VCSU's next president.

Dr. Shirley continued from page 4

of tastes!), lake activities, Scandinavian heritage, and golf. You might also bump into me at an auction or antique store.

Regarding family, my parents live in Fargo and I have two sisters who are both in Minnesota. We have a lake cabin at Lake Metigoshe, ND near the Peace Gardens at the Canadian border and I have been going there for decades. I still thoroughly enjoy spending time up there relaxing with a good book or being outdoors in its peaceful and serene atmosphere. My partner, Jennifer, is a child advocate and she works with abused and neglected children. It is a very difficult and, at times, stressful job, but is also extremely rewarding and important work.

I was pleased to have met several of you at the recent Viking Scramble, and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the future. This is a tremendously exciting place to be, and I very much look forward to working with you as we continue to build a bright future for VCSU!

Warm Regards,
Steve

Q & A with Dr. Steve Shirley

As you went through the selection process, what were your first impressions of VCSU and Valley City?

One thing I noticed right away about the community is that people here are proactive and forward-thinking and they like to be involved; they are dedicated to their community and their university. Those are all important assets for any community, and it really shows here in Valley City. As for the university, I am impressed with the many ways it has found to distinguish itself from other universities: the significant role of technology, the innovative educational opportunities like the online Master's program and the Technology Education program, the Enterprise Applications certificate, partnering with private businesses; all of these areas coupled with an outstanding liberal arts program grounded in the arts and sciences. Carving out a niche is one of the most important things for a university to do in today's competitive world. VCSU is creating that niche very well right now by implementing some resourceful educational programs. Additionally, I heard many times how the community and the university work together to make each other better and stronger, and that's a great way to continue building upon success.

What do you think VCSU's greatest strengths are?

I have been most impressed with the people I've met. The alumni and friends of the university are caring and willing to give their 'all' to support VCSU. The faculty and staff take great pride in the VCSU mission, and they are dedicated to the students at a personal level to a degree you just don't see at other universities. The students are involved, hard-working, and want to participate in their education. In addition to the great people here, momentum is certainly another key strength, and VCSU has it on a number of fronts including growth initiatives, growth of the endowment, and a culture of innovation in implementing and promoting technology to name just a few. Of course, another great strength is the historical mission of VCSU and how well the university has fulfilled and continues to fulfill that mission to this day with its outstanding teacher education program.

What do you think VCSU's greatest challenges are?

Definitely the demographics of rural areas of North Dakota and the Upper Midwest, and the highly competitive conditions they create. Enrollment management will continue to be a critical focus at VCSU as we work to maintain and grow the institution to a level that will support new and continuing academic and student initiatives. Our efforts to recruit and retain students (both on-campus and at a distance) will require private dollars and ongoing support from university friends, partners, and alumni as we move ahead. I look forward to reaching out and meeting with a wide variety of stakeholders – faculty, staff, students, alumni, supporters, community members, business and K-12 leaders – to discuss enrollment initiatives and develop long-term strategic solutions.

What will your initial priorities be as you start your new role?

I have a lot of people to meet and a lot of listening to do, so that will be my first priority. I am really looking forward to having those conversations and reaching out to as many of our stakeholders as possible. The future for VCSU is a very bright one and I am excited about the prospects and look forward to hitting the ground running.

Is there anything else you'd like to say to the university, the alumni or the community?

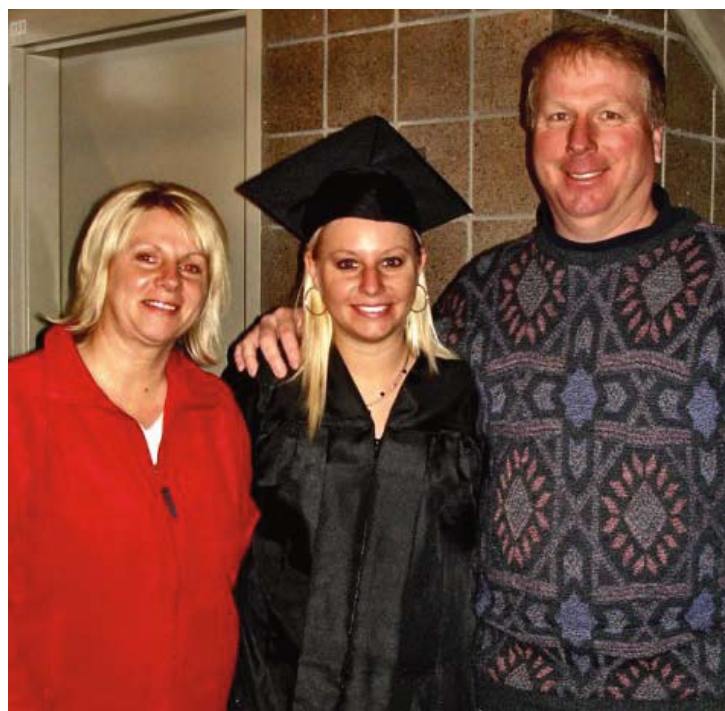
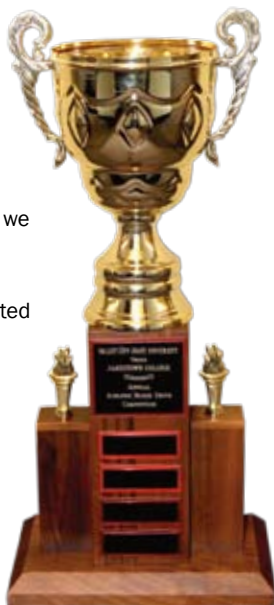
I'd just like to say once more that I am tremendously honored to have been selected for this role. This is without a doubt the most exciting opportunity in my career, and because of that, I am truly humbled and honored to be here. I am also excited about the future at VCSU. This institution has had tremendous leadership in the past, and I certainly want to extend congratulations to Dr. Chaffee as she moves on to the next chapter in her life, and offer a sincere "Thank You" for all of her outstanding years of leadership. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you!

Vikings Beat Jimmies Again!

Vikings 98, Jimmies 84

The Vikings are accustomed to beating the Jamestown "Jimmies" in every sport, but now we can add blood drives to the list!

In the annual blood drive organized by the Philomathian Sorority and VCSU Athletics, United Blood Services came to campus with a new twist: taking advantage of the rivalry between Jamestown College and VCSU in order to get the greatest response possible. The campus that produced the most blood would get recognition, a place on a trophy, and a new class of bragging rights. The results: VCSU collected 98 units compared to 84 units in Jamestown. Tahnee Huertas, Philo president and organizer of the drive for VCSU, said, "I am very happy with the high number of donations received by the Valley City community and everyone at the college who participated in this year's blood drive. I would like to thank Coach Horner and all the athletes who made the success of the blood drive possible. The Philomathian Sorority is very proud of the results of this year's blood drive and anticipates next year's blood drive to have better numbers and another winning title." ♦



A Family Affair...

Another family kept VCSU as a tradition when Amber Radloff graduated with a BS in Education to join her parents Scott '83 and Brenda (Hubrig) '84 as alumni.

Online Master of Education:

This practitioner-oriented degree is ideal for elementary or secondary teachers. Students complete coursework anywhere an Internet connection is available at times convenient to them.

Accredited by the HLC, NDESPB, and NCATE.

Nurse Education Comes to Valley City VCSU enters partnership with MSU-Bottineau, health care providers to address critical shortage

The North Dakota Board of Nursing recently approved a collaborative nurse education satellite program to be delivered in Valley City by Valley City State University and Minot State University – Bottineau through the Dakota Nursing Program (DNP).

"North Dakota, particularly in rural areas, is facing a critical shortage of qualified nurses in part because the location of education opportunities is a barrier to prospective students who are placebound," said Julie Traynor, Director of the DNP. "Through the North Dakota Nurse Program, we are providing quality nurse education opportunities in locations throughout the state so prospective nurses can study and find employment in towns where they live. Valley City is a great addition to that program."

Under the program, students will use VCSU as their home

campus while they complete a nursing certificate program that will be awarded by MSU-Bottineau. VCSU provides the coursework for these students to meet their general education requirements, but they will receive their classroom instruction in nursing via Interactive Video Network (IVN) from MSU-Bottineau. Clinical practice opportunities for these students will be available through healthcare providers located in Valley City including the Sheyenne Care Center and Mercy Hospital. Students admitted into the program will be required to complete three semesters of coursework. Upon successful completion of the 11 month program, students graduate with a certificate in Practical Nursing and are eligible to apply for their Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) certificate through the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses.

Craig Christianson, CEO of the Sheyenne Care Center, said, "Having this program in Valley City will be a great help in recruiting nurses, and we are looking forward to working with both VCSU and MSU-Bottineau to wrap this up as quickly as possible."

The program is staffed to accommodate up to 8 students fall semester 2008 and is expected to grow from there.

The Dakota Nursing Program is a nursing education consortium made possible through the collaborative efforts of Bismarck State College, Lake Region State College, Minot State University - Bottineau, and Williston State College. More than 175 future practical nurses and associate degree nurses (two-year registered nurses) are being educated at the four colleges who work together within the Dakota Nursing Program. ♦

Another Set of “Firsts” at Commencement 2008

It seems that every commencement ceremony marks something new, and Commencement 2008 was no exception.

One of the “firsts” this year was the weather: this was the first commencement ceremony (in memory, at least) that featured snow fall. Another first: This year, VCSU celebrated the

first graduates from the new major degree program in Fisheries & Wildlife Science.

Unfortunately, it was also an occasion to mark “lasts” that will be missed. This commencement was the last that Dr. Chaffee will preside over as she resigned her position as president effective June 30. ♦



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1. Amanda Bryson (left) and Greg Hastings (right) are the first two graduates from VCSU's Fisheries & Wildlife Science major. Though it is only in its 3rd year, the program has grown rapidly, and 29 students had declared it as their major at the beginning of the 2007-2008 academic year. Amanda has been accepted to pursue a Master of Science degree at the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences program at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD. Greg is working at the Valley City Wetland Management district conducting GIS surveys and mapping wetlands. 2. Commencement featured the second class of graduates from VCSU's new online Master of Education program. A total of 15 students graduated from the program during the 2007-2008 academic year. **FRONT** Kristi Anderson (Ashley), Sarah Francetich (Williston), Judith Walter (Minot). **BACK** Lisa Nelson (Casselton), Angela Williams (Lisbon), Eric Weaver (Moorhead, MN), Kristi Stuber (Moorhead, MN), Annette Beattie (Hannaford). 3. The “distance award” went to Martin Olsen from Sandefjord, Norway. Martin completed his major in Instrumental Music, was recognized with the Outstanding Senior Music Major award, and has been accepted into the masters program in conducting at NDSU. At commencement, he was joined by his mother Torill Aasheim, his grandmother Synove Aasheim and his mother's friend, Hans Georg Mortensen. 4. An inspirational commencement address delivered by former senior vice president of Microsoft and North Dakota native Doug Bergum set the tone for looking forward to bright futures. 5. This may be the last commencement to feature organ music performed by Paul McDaniel '73, who has performed in a total of 29 commencement ceremonies. Paul and his wife Avis '73 are moving to Minnesota to be closer to their children, and are unable to commit to return for future ceremonies.

Insights into IT

Experiences of 3 alums shed light on the keys to successfully launching careers in information technology

It is a big world out there, but three alumni from the Class of 2006 all are launching careers as software engineers at the same place: Thomson Reuters in the Twin Cities. Mike Wagner, Kodee Ussatis, and Bill Schlosser credit VCSU's business and information technology degrees for giving them a great start.

Thomson Reuters provides information and software products for professionals in the fields of financial services, healthcare, legal, media, scientific, and tax/accounting. The company was recently formed through the combination of The Thomson Corporation and Reuters Group PLC, and has 50,000 employees in 93 countries.

As big as Thomson Reuters is, Mike, Kodee and Bill all sit within 50 feet of each other. They work in the Professional Information, Infrastructure & Research Services division of Thomson Reuters, which provides software solutions, research, and support to the different business entities.

Innovative coursework

Part of what got them to Thomson Reuters is that all three took VCSU's course in Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software when it was brand new in 2005. "CRM is an important application for Thomson Reuters," said Mike. "It provides our sales reps with greater access to information about their customers, so they can spend more time selling more product to more of their customers. It is important enough that over 1,000 sales reps are using it."

Thomson Reuters uses Siebel CRM from Oracle Corporation, one of the most popular systems in the business world. But despite its popularity, very few universities offer courses that focus on it. VCSU was ahead of the game by introducing this curriculum in 2005 and is still innovating: the CRM course is now part of a 19 credit (6 courses) CRM certificate. VCSU also introduced an 18-19 credit certificate in Enterprise Applications and is offering it online to make it accessible for working professionals.

Hands-on experience

What made the coursework particularly useful to Thomson Reuters was that it provided Mike,



Mike Wagner '06, Kodee Ussatis '06, and Bill Schlosser '06 all leveraged their VCSU education to launch careers with a world leader in the information and software industry.

Kodee and Bill with hands-on experience. This aspect of VCSU's curriculum has been so valuable to employers that VCSU is expanding it. Last year, VCSU joined the SAP University Alliance and is now in the process of including hands-on work with SAP throughout the Business and IT curriculum.

But Kodee and Bill took this a step further by completing an internship that gave them experience in a real business environment working on real applications. Kodee stated, "My internship through VCSU was with Eagle Creek Software Services working on Siebel CRM applications, but Thomson Reuters saw this as an asset even for a job working with SAP software. The internship program provided valuable job experience with a credited employer." To offer more internship opportunities for students, VCSU is hiring a business development director that will focus on building relationships with employers.

Soft skills

But technical skills aren't the only thing businesses are interested in. Also important is a good understanding of the business itself and the ability to work with people at many levels and with different skills. For Bill, this was a key. "Thomson Reuters liked my combination of business and technical experience. My role involves translating business needs into technical specifications,

so sure, you need to understand configuration management, but being able to work with end users is important, too."

The results

All three think VCSU's program does an excellent job preparing students for careers in the business world. Kodee said, "Most other employees in the department come from the U of M or other large universities, and I feel we were just as prepared with our experiences and coursework at VCSU."

Next steps

All three like working at Thomson Reuters and are thinking about next steps. Mike recently traveled to Reston, VA for in-depth Siebel training, and is looking forward to growing into a management or lead position. He plans to start work on an MBA spring of 2009. Kodee and Bill are working on VCSU's online Enterprise Applications Certificate. Bill is enrolled in a Masters of Software Engineering program from the University of St. Thomas, and recently attended Americas' SAP Users' Group (ASUG) conference in Orlando. "Opportunities at a company like Thomson Reuters are very diverse," said Bill. "I could see working in many different areas and many different places." ♦

Relaxing the Rules of Grammar – A Bit Too Far

“It takes irony to appreciate the joke which is on oneself.”

~ Jessamyn West

When VCSU professor emeritus Dr. Richard Betting wrote a book about English grammar, he was out to help solve a problem he experienced firsthand throughout his 40 years of teaching.

According to Betting, most grammar textbooks have the wrong focus. “Just about every book you find teaches students to name the parts of speech rather than how to properly use the language. It doesn’t do you a lot of good to know something is a past participle, modal or an aspect of a verb if you can’t use it properly.”

So his book, *Grammar Today: The New American Language and Grammar Primer*, had a different focus:

enhancing effective communication by relaxing strict rules of grammar and putting more emphasis on other elements of communication such as usage and style.

In the process of writing the book he worked with members of VCSU’s Division of Communication Arts, including Associate Professor Dr. Margaret Dahlberg and Division Chair Dr. Julee Russell. They used drafts of various chapters in their courses over the last few years, and found them to be useful. “Dr. Betting offers readers the opportunity to really think about language and the ways we talk about it, teach it, and use it,” said Dr. Dahlberg. “He provides a healthy dose of skepticism about the value of inviolate rules for a language whose vocabulary changes daily.” The book was completed, and the first run of 1,500 copies rolled off the press.

But then, the irony.

Shortly after the first copies were used in classrooms, Dr. Betting got word that the book

had a few typos – several of them, in fact. One example: every page in Chapter 9 is labeled with the header “Parts of Speech.” Ouch.

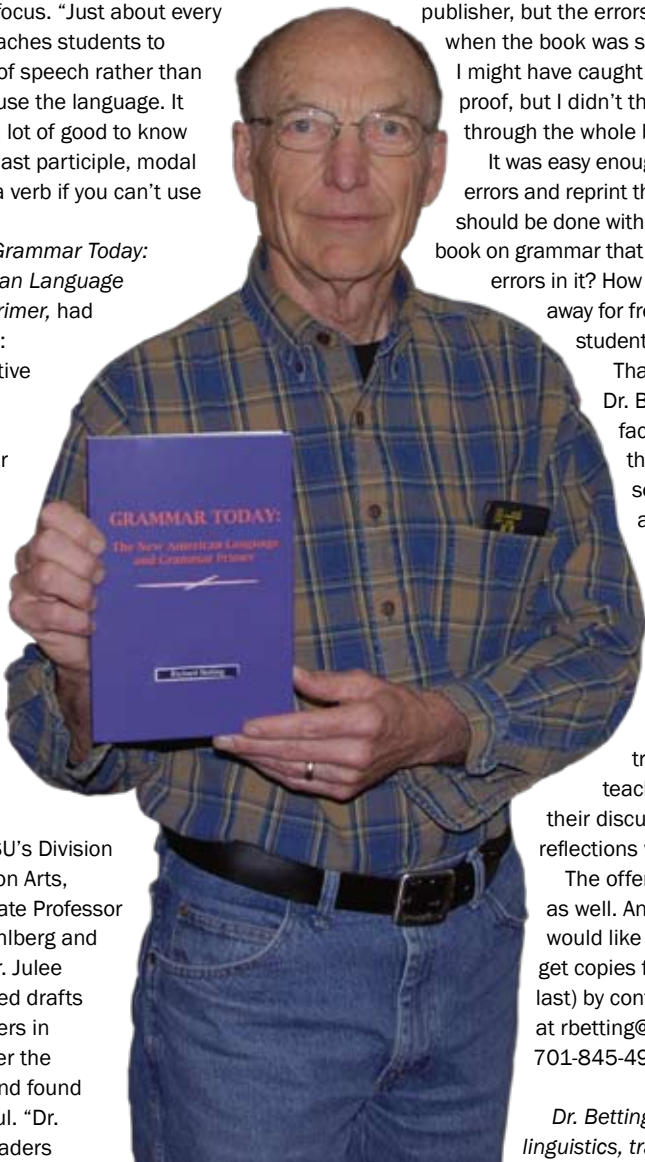
“I couldn’t believe it,” said Dr. Betting. “I proofread the book before turning it over to the publisher, but the errors were introduced when the book was set-up for printing. I might have caught them in the galley proof, but I didn’t think I needed to go through the whole book again.”

It was easy enough to correct the errors and reprint the book, but what should be done with 1,500 copies of a book on grammar that has grammatical errors in it? How about giving them away for free and challenge students to find the errors!

That is exactly what Dr. Betting is doing. In fact, Dr. Dahlberg used the book this spring semester, errors and all, and found the experience rewarding. “I was delighted by the way my students felt empowered by this book to raise questions about traditional English teaching methodologies—their discussions, their reflections were exciting.”

The offer is good for others, as well. Any teacher who would like to use the book can get copies for free (while they last) by contacting Dr. Betting at rbetting@netzero.com or 701-845-4905. ♦

Dr. Betting taught grammar, linguistics, transformational grammar, literature, freshman comp, and intro to communications in VCSU’s English Department from 1966–1997. After retiring, he spent a semester and summer teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) in China through Concordia Language Camps Global Language Village. In addition to Grammar Today, Dr. Betting has written two other books: Hayfield, a novel, and China Diary 2000, a reflection of his teaching ESL to elementary and university students in China.



VCSU Takes Elementary Education Program to Wyoming

VCSU signed an articulation agreement with Northwest College (Powell, WY) that will give students in Wyoming the opportunity to complete VCSU’s Elementary Education degree program via distance learning. The agreement addresses an unmet demand for Elementary Education degree opportunities throughout the state.

According to the agreement, VCSU will recognize students who have completed Northwest’s Associate of Arts degree as having met VCSU’s general education requirements (with some exceptions). They will then be eligible to earn VCSU’s Bachelor of Science degree in Education, Elementary Education major by completing VCSU’s Professional Education Sequence, other specified courses, and the student teaching experience. VCSU will deliver these courses using methods that allow the students to complete the program without being present on the VCSU campus. Delivery methods will include online and summer workshops conducted by VCSU faculty on the NWC campus.

VCSU expects approximately 10-15 students will enter the program for the Fall semester, 2008. Options for expanding the program to include other campuses and endorsements are also under consideration. ♦

e-Delivery of The Bulletin!

Did you know that you can save the VCSU Foundation money by electing to have your copy of *The Bulletin* electronically delivered to you via e-mail? Visit: <http://www.vcsu.edu/newsletter/> and provide your email address, first and last name. Then, you can subscribe to any of several VCSU electronic newsletters, including one for *The Bulletin* (others include “VCSU Alumni News,” “Viking Sports News,” and several others). Select the newsletters you wish to receive. You can unsubscribe to any of these newsletters at any time, and VCSU will keep your information confidential.

If you have any questions please call Kim Hesck at 800-532-8641 ext. 3-7403. ♦

Employee Recognition Banquet

Thirty-Five Years

Alice Beauchman
Kathryn Holleque

Joe McKenna
Don Mugan

Thirty Years

Marcia Foss
Diane Hill
Sharon McCarriar
Glen Schmalz

Betty Gibbons
Monte Johnson
David Melgaard

Twenty-Five Years

Irene Groth

Twenty Years

Bonita Pickar

Connie Stavens

Fifteen Years

Ellen Chaffee

Doug Hamilton

Ten Years

Deb Borg
Erik Kringlie
Ann Thoreson

Kerry Gregoryk
Diane Olson

Five Years

Keith Biggers
George Judd
Tanis Lovercheck-Saunders
Tim Schilling

Michelle Hoyt
David Klein
Joseph Munowenyu
Chad Slyter

Teacher of the Year

Dr. Joe Stickler



TWENTY-FIVE, THIRTY, AND THIRTY-FIVE YEARS: FRONT ROW Joe McKenna '86, Sharon McCarriar, Alice Beauchman '73, Diane Hill '73, Betty Gibbons, David Melgaard. BACK ROW Don Mugan, Marcia Foss '72, Monte Johnson '74, Irene Groth, Glen Schmalz '76. NOT SHOWN Kathryn Holleque.



FIVE, TEN, FIFTEEN, AND TWENTY YEARS: FRONT ROW Kerry Gregoryk, Deb Borg, Ellen Chaffee, Tannis Lovercheck-Saunders. BACK ROW Doug Hamilton, Joseph Munowenyu '03, Diane Olson, Keith Biggers. NOT SHOWN Michelle Hoyt, George Judd '79, David Klein '03, Tim Schilling '70, Chad Slyter '96, Erik Kringlie '92, Ann Thoreson '99, Bonita Pickar, Connie Stavens '92.



TEACHER OF THE YEAR: Dr. Joe Stickler is flanked by Student Senate Secretary Jana Peterson and Student Senate President Cameron Battagler.

VCSU Scholarship Auction Hits the Jackpot!

"Viva Las Vikings" was the theme for the 14th annual VCSU Scholarship Auction on April 25 at the Valley City Eagles.

"This year's auction was a complete success," said Kim Hesch, VCSU's assistant director of Advancement. "We exceed our goal generating over \$43,000 in scholarships, sold a record number tickets, and had over 390 people attend."

All the promotional materials featured the famous Las Vegas sign to play off the theme. The Valley City Eagles Club was decked out Las Vegas-style. A new feature this year was the "Viking Downs" horse race which proved so popular that it was repeated a second time by popular demand. The casino games were a big hit, too, and were featured during the social hour. The games gave lucky auction participants a chance to win (or lose) "Viking Dollars" that could be exchanged for prizes!

Everyone on the committee that organized the auction was dressed 'Vegas-style,' and others attending were encouraged to dress up, too!

Of course, the auctions were the main events of the evening. Once again this year, the Scholarship Auction had 3 components: an online auction hosted at the VCSU web site, a silent auction held throughout the evening, and a live auction. "This was a chance to get some great deals while contributing to a great cause," said Hesch. "All of the auction items were donated, so all proceeds go directly to scholarships."

"Scholarships are absolutely vital to VCSU's success because they give us a way to compete for the best and brightest students," said VCSU Executive Director of Advancement Larry Robinson. "I think people like knowing that the money raised by the Scholarship Auction is going to a great cause." ♦



PHOTOS ABOVE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT 1 Horse race participants Laura Becker, Ross Powell '98, Ginger Flemmer, Keith Hovland, Tara (Erdman) Glandt '05 and Tory Hart. 2 Ginger Flemmer, Kathleen Horner, Terri LeGrand, Ron Wendel '67, Hilde van Gijssel, and Rhonda Fairfield enjoy playing some Blackjack with their "Viking Money." 3 Laura Becker, Kathy (Wallace) Edinger '85 and Paige Bjornson check out the silent auction items. 4 VCSU Student Jeremy Wiebe gives David Melgaard a chance at Plinko, one of the many games available to play during the social hour. 5 President Ellen Chaffee and Lady Luck (Heidi Sandness '03) 6 The "Lucky Dice" Janet (Hanson) Thornton '01 (far left) and James Thornton '02 (far right) join VCSU students (left to right) Tiffany Christiansen, Kaylee Callahan, and Alecia Stark.

Stickler Named Teacher of the Year



The VCSU Student Senate named Dr. Joe Stickler "Teacher of the Year." The award is given annually to a professor who shows dedication to the students of VCSU through innovative teaching methods and continued professional development both inside and outside of the classroom.

The award was presented to Stickler by Teacher of the Year Committee Co-Chairs Billy Anderson and Lisa Paillé. In his comments, Anderson said, "Dr. Stickler has not only shown tremendous knowledge in his content area but has shown a special ability to teach his students with great enthusiasm and passion. He goes above and beyond his job title assisting students outside the class, particularly with lab work. His community work with the Medicine Wheel Park is well known throughout the university and community. Dr. Stickler has been a consistent standard of success with numerous students going on to graduate school. He has shown his reliability and stability by winning this award several times in the past. On behalf of the VCSU Student Senate, we are happy to honor and recognize Dr. Stickler with the Teacher of the Year award."

Professors are nominated by members of the student body, and the winner is elected by the Student Senate. This is the third time Dr. Stickler has received this recognition.

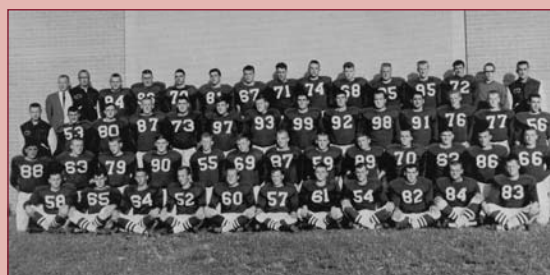
Dr. Stickler is the Chair of VCSU's Division of Mathematics, Science, and Health & Physical Education. He has been with VCSU for 27 years teaching courses in Chemistry and Astronomy, and has been chair of the division since 1992. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry from Ohio Wesleyan University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in organic chemistry from the University of Illinois. In addition to high quality instruction in the classroom, Stickler is well known for his work envisioning, building, and enhancing the Medicine Wheel Park in Valley City, a unique 30-acre park that includes a 213 foot replica of a Native American medicine wheel, Native American burial mounds, a scale model of the solar system (1 foot equal 3 million miles), a segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail and other woodland nature trails, several scenic overlooks of the Sheyenne River valley and Valley City, and a 3,000 square foot perennial flower garden. ♦

Hall of Fame Inductees 2008

The Viking Hall of Fame Committee is pleased to announce the 2008 inductees. These inductees will be honored during Homecoming festivities October 3-5. Additional information including photos and complete biographies is available on our web site: vikings.vcsu.edu.



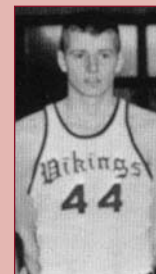
The 1963 Football Team... 45th anniversary team... Conference champions... 6-1-1 overall, 5-0-1 in the NDCAC



The 1964 Football Team... Conference champions... 7-1 overall, 5-1 in the NDCAC



The 1958-59 Men's Basketball Team... 50th anniversary team... Conference champions... 17-3 overall, 15-1 in the NDCAC... **Jerry Kringle (deceased)...** 1956-57, 57-58, 58-59



The 1965-66 Men's Basketball Team... 12-9 overall, 10-2 NDCAD... **Henry Holte (deceased)...** 1964-65, 65-66

Alum's Daughter Continues Winning Tradition



VCSU freshman Amanda Brown (left) accepts the "All Around Athlete" award from Ann Strother (right), Colorado native, UConn star, and WNBA veteran.

Mark Brown '84 is accustomed to winning. As a Viking, he was a two-sport athlete in cross country and track, and was a member of the 1981 cross country team that was inducted into the Viking Hall of Fame. Since then, he has gone on to 24 years as a very successful math teacher and coach, and has earned a

reputation as one of the most successful girl's basketball coaches in the state of Colorado.

His winning ways are continuing with his children including VCSU freshman Amanda Brown. Amanda was recognized with the "All-Around Athlete" award by Sportswomen of Colorado at its 34th Annual Awards Banquet in March. She was noted to be one of the best female athletes in the history of Limon High School (Colorado) athletics.

Her athletic career in Limon was truly outstanding. Coached by her father, Amanda's basketball team won three state titles (she was the MVP in 2 of them) and she was recognized as the 2007 2A Player of the Year. In other sports, she was a part of the softball team that made it to the "Final 4" three years in a row and the track team that won the State 2A Track Meet all four years.

For the Viking women's basketball team, Amanda started 16 of 26 games in the 2007-2008 season. She was second on the team in scoring with an average of 7.5 ppg. "Amanda had an up-and-down season, as most freshmen do," said women's basketball coach Jill DeVries. "Her versatility as a big guard who can shoot, handle the ball and defend is what makes us excited about her future. We are looking forward to her having a tremendous career at VCSU."

As head coach of the girl's basketball team at Limon, Mark has compiled a record of 277-84 over the past 16 years, won five state 2A championships, and finished third one other year in the state tournament. For his efforts, he has been honored as the Colorado Class 2A Girl's Basketball Coach of the Year four times, the Colorado Coaches Association Girl's Basketball Coach of the Year two times, and the All Colorado Girl's Basketball Coach of the Year once. ♦



VCSU freshman Amanda Brown was recognized with the "All-Around Athlete" award by Sportswomen of Colorado. In her very successful high-school career, she was coached by her father and VCSU alum Mark Brown '84, who also has a remarkable record of success both as an athlete and as a coach. **BACK ROW** Reuben Brown (grandfather), Rocky Rockwell (softball coach), Matt Brown, Jason Brown, and David Grimes (track coach). **FRONT ROW** Dorothy Brown (grandmother), Kathy Brown, Amanda, Mark Brown.

Viking News and Notes

Viking Athletics Announce 2007-2008 Annual Awards

The VCSU Athletic Department announced their annual athletic department award winners on May 5 at the Student Center. Selections were made by the coaching staff and Athletic Director B.J. Pumroy. The awards are as follows:

NAIA Champions of Character Award

Jenna Vrchota — Women's Basketball
Mike York — Men's Basketball

NAIA Champion of Character Team Award Women's Volleyball

VCSU Senior Athletes of the Year

Chris Olson — Baseball
Amy Morrison — Volleyball

VCSU Viking Awards

Reid Arnold — Baseball
Krystal Hathaway — Softball

VCSU Athlete of the Year Awards

Anthony Walkine — Football
Cyndi Figol — Softball

VCSU Coach of the Year Award Jeff Kaminsky

The awards were handed out at the Viking Spring ice cream social. Athletic Director BJ Pumroy emceed the event with speeches by Steve Phillips and Megan Floerke. ♦

**For up-to-the-minute news
on Viking Sports go to
VIKINGS.VCSU.EDU**

2008 Viking Scramble

The rain clouds cleared off just in time to make the 2008 Viking Scramble a tremendous success (though a little soggy in areas). The competition was tough this year, as two teams tied for first place, triggering a tie-breaker to determine this year's winner.

Open Flight winners were Joe Ukestad, Josh Kasowski '04, Doug Bieswanger, Brad Spenningsby '77, Bob McAllister who shot a 59 for a -12. Runners up were John Olstad '93, Dave Rausch '78, Dean Hjort, James Thorton '02 and Dave Meyer who shot a 62 for a -9. ♦



Taking first place was John Braun '94, Doug Bergan '78, Bob Bergan '82, Pat Bresnahan, Chad Bergan.



Tied for first place, but lost in the tie-breaker: Sheryl (Hermanson) Hanson '71, Keith Baumgartner, Ryan Hanson '92, Rob McGyver, Jay Olafson.

VIKINGS

2008 Viking Volleyball

Home games in BOLD

| | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------|
| Aug. 22 | Carroll College – Dickinson Tourney (Dickinson, ND) | MST 10:00 am |
| Aug. 22 | Montana Tech – Dickinson Tourney (Dickinson, ND) | MST 2:00 pm |
| Aug. 23 | MSU-Northern – Dickinson Tourney (Dickinson, ND) | MST 1:00 pm |
| Aug. 23 | Rocky Mt. College – Dickinson Tourney (Dickinson, ND) | MST 5:00 pm |
| Aug. 29 | Concordia University – Northwestern Tourney (Orange City, IA) | 4:30 pm |
| Aug. 29 | Midland Lutheran – Northwestern Tourney (Orange City, IA) | 8:30 pm |
| Aug. 30 | Doane College – Northwestern Tourney (Orange City, IA) | 11:00 am |
| Aug. 30 | Hastings College – Northwestern Tourney (Orange City, IA) | 3:00 pm |
| Sept. 3 | Concordia College | 7:00 pm |
| Sept. 5 | Waldorf College – Sioux Falls Tourney (Sioux Falls, SD) | 2:00 pm |
| Sept. 5 | Dana College – Sioux Falls Tourney (Sioux Falls, SD) | 6:00 pm |
| Sept. 6 | Briar Cliff – Sioux Falls Tourney (Sioux Falls, SD) | 9:00 am |
| Sept. 6 | Mt. Marty – Sioux Falls Tourney (Sioux Falls, SD) | 1:00 pm |
| Sept. 13 | Mid-American – Dana Tourney (Blair, NE) | 9:00 am |
| Sept. 13 | York College – Dana Tourney (Blair, NE) | 11:00 am |
| Sept. 13 | Avila University – Dana Tourney (Blair, NE) | 4:00 pm |
| Sept. 19 | Dakota State University | 7:00 pm |
| Sept. 20 | Mayville State University | 7:00 pm |
| Sept. 26 | SD School of Mines (Rapid City, SD) | MST 7:00 pm |
| Sept. 27 | Black Hills State University (Spearfish, SD) | MST 3:00 pm |
| Sept. 30 | University of North Dakota | 7:00 pm |
| Oct. 3 | Dickinson State University | 7:00 pm |
| Oct. 4 | Minot State University | 7:00 pm |
| Oct. 8 | Jamestown College (Jamestown, ND) | 7:00 pm |
| Oct. 17 | Mayville State University (Mayville, ND) | 7:00 pm |
| Oct. 18 | Dakota State University (Madison, SD) | 3:00 pm |
| Oct. 21 | University of North Dakota (Grand Forks, ND) | 7:00 pm |
| Oct. 24 | Black Hills State University | 7:00 pm |
| Oct. 25 | SD School of Mines | 3:00 pm |
| Oct. 31 | Minot State University (Minot, ND) | 7:00 pm |
| Nov. 1 | Dickinson State University (Dickinson, ND) | MST 7:00 pm |
| Nov. 5 | Jamestown College | 7:00 pm |
| Nov. 8 | DAC Tourney 1 st Round | TBA |
| Nov. 11 | DAC Tourney 2 nd Round | TBA |
| Nov. 15 | DAC Championship | TBA |

2008 Viking Football

Home games in BOLD

| | | |
|-----------------|--|----------------|
| Aug. 30 | MSU-Moorhead | 1:30 pm |
| Sept. 13 | Peru NE | 1:00 pm |
| Sept. 20 | Jamestown College | 1:30 pm |
| Sept. 27 | Minot State University | 1:30 pm |
| Oct. 4 | Dickinson State University (Homecoming) | 1:30 pm |
| Oct. 11 | Black Hills State | MST 1:00 pm |
| Oct. 18 | Dakota State | 1:30 pm |
| Oct. 25 | Mayville State University | 1:30 pm |
| Nov. 1 | SD School of Mines | 1:00 pm |
| Nov. 8 | Jamestown College | 1:30 pm |
| Nov. 22 | NAIA Playoffs-1st Round | TBA |
| Nov. 29 | NAIA Quarterfinals | TBA |
| Dec. 6 | NAIA Semifinals | TBA |
| Dec. 20 | NAIA National Championship | TBA |
| | Shorter College, Rome, Georgia | |



See you at the game!

Viking Softball Wraps-Up Third Straight Season with 25 Wins

Viking Softball Recap 2008

For the third time in a row, the Viking softball team finished an impressive season with 25 wins. Only one other team in the DAC has been able to accomplish that feat. With only freshmen and sophomores seeing significant playing time, this team looks like it has the capability to be truly outstanding.

The season highlights include many new offensive team records including hits (410), RBI's (201), doubles (76), home runs (29), along with bases on balls (136). The 2008 Vikings smashed the runs scored record with 296, 50 better than the previous 246 set in 2006. In addition, the Vikings beat then eighth ranked Dickinson State 8-0 and took two other games into extra innings before losing to the Blue Hawks.

Individually, two new marks were broken, both by freshmen on the 2008 squad. Bre-Ann Robertson broke the single season at bats record, setting the new mark at 171. Cyndi Figol set a new mark in doubles on a season with 18.

The Viking offense was led by sophomore pitcher/designated player Krystal Hathaway who was scalding the ball when the season ended. Hathaway finished the season with a .440 batting average. Sophomore first baseman Kaleigh Will also had an outstanding season at the plate hitting for a .351 average for second best. In all, seven Vikings finished with a batting average higher than .300. Following Hathaway and Will's marks were sophomore catcher Amanda Carter (.347), Figol (.339), Robertson (.333), freshman Shana Powers (.329) and freshman Jane Pettit (.308).

The Viking pitching staff was anchored by Hathaway who missed the preseason due to injury. She came back for the conference season and finished the season strong. Hathaway led the team in wins (9), ERA (2.90), complete games (12), innings pitched (120) and strikeouts (154).

Kaleigh Will was chosen as a DAC All Conference selection. Krystal Hathaway was recognized as the DAC Pitcher of the Week for March 24-30 and Player of the Week for April 28-May 4. Cyndi Figol was also a runner up for DAC Freshman of the Year.

Coach Chad Slyter said of the season, "When I look back on the season, winning 25 games with the youth that we had is not a bad thing. We stayed in a lot of games that we ultimately lost. We lost 11 games by two runs or less, so we gave ourselves a chance to be successful. With a new system and adjusting to the college game, our freshmen have a big learning curve, but we have to learn to win at this level, too."

Looking forward into the 2009 season, Slyter said, "Some great players that started a large majority of games for us as freshman and sophomores are returning. We'll also add some really outstanding players, so I think good things are possible. Of course, we'll have to continue to work hard and put the time in to be successful, but with this group, I'm confident that will happen." ♦

A Wild Ride

Viking Baseball Recap 2008

The 2008 baseball season began with high hopes for the Vikings. With seven position players back from the 2007 campaign, the defense and lineup looked to be strengths. But with only one of the top four starters returning, the pitching staff was young and left a few question marks as the season began.

The opening double header in Brownsville, Texas against the University of Texas Brownsville was an indication of how the season would go for the Vikes. The opening 10 run loss was followed by a dramatic ninth inning come from behind victory. The rollercoaster ride of a season was just beginning for the Vikings.

Early on, the Vikings managed two non-conference wins in three games against eventual conference tournament champion Dickinson State including a comeback win from 10 runs down as the Vikings scored 17 runs in the fifth inning during the DAC preseason tournament. This kind of offensive explosion showed what the offense was capable of, and would be drawn upon later in the year.

During the second half of the year, the Vikings showed improvement in all areas while going 9-11. The young pitching staff steadied itself and improved the team ERA by nearly three runs per game. Leading the way on the mound over the second half of the season were pitchers freshman Matt Gottwalt (Royalton, MN) with an ERA of 2.89 and senior Jason Beilke (Valley City) at 3.48. The offense also came to life and raised the team batting average by 36 points. Over the last 20 games, senior Jeremy Wiebe (Steinbach, MB) batted an impressive .400. He was followed by freshman Josh Evans (Hayfield, MN) at .387, senior Chris Olson (Livingston, MT) at .370, Jason Beilke at .364 and senior Reid Arnold (Fargo) at .355.

At the close of conference play heading into the conference tournament, the Vikings took the fifth seed and faced off with second seeded Dakota State. The Viking prevailed in dramatic fashion coming from two runs down late in the game with three seniors (Chris Olson, Reid Arnold, Jeremy Wiebe) belting home runs in the seventh inning to give the Vikes a 7-4 win. The opening round win was the Vike's first in four seasons. The second round game looked to be going VCSU's way, but holding onto a 12-4 lead against Dickinson State proved to be more difficult than was thought. The Blue Hawks scored nine runs in the bottom of the eighth to take the lead. The Vikes would tie the game in the ninth but could not shut down the Blue Hawks in their half of the inning and fell 15-13. A loss to Minot State in the next game ended VCSU's season.

The Vikings put three players on the all conference team as Jason Beilke and Chris Olson were Second Team All DAC selections and Jeremy Wiebe won the conference and NAIA Region III Gold Glove in right field.

Moving forward, the Vikings will have a different look next season as they lose 10 seniors. The Vikes will bring back 14 members for 2009 campaign and mix in a strong recruiting class to fill the holes left by graduation. ♦

Youthful Vikes Top 20 Win Mark for First Time in 21 Years

Viking Basketball Recap 2008

The VCSU Men's basketball team brought back memories from the W.E. Osmon era with success not seen on the hardwood in many years. The record of 22-8 was the best mark since the 1986-87 team finished at 24-6. The team finished second in the DAC with a 10-4 record, one game shy of the regular season championship. With no seniors on the team, the young squad did not falter against a high caliber schedule which included two wins over Dakota Athletic Conference regular season champion Jamestown College (by 12 and 13 points). The season also featured Coach Jeff Kaminsky's 300th career win over NAIA national tournament team Dakota Wesleyan. Only two positions separated the team from being selected for the NAIA national tournament.

The team's motto "Where the Defense Never Rests" spoke to their team style of play. They led the conference in defensive scoring average with a thrifty allowance of 66.4 points a game and led the DAC in scoring margin averaging 10.8 more points than they allowed per game. They kept opponents to a league-leading .407 overall field goal percentage and kept the perimeter shut down as well holding the opponent 3-point field goal percentage to .345, second best in the DAC.

Truly, this was both a team and individual effort, and it was rewarded as sophomore guard Mike York (Burnsville, MN) was selected by the league

coaches as the Dakota Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year. Also receiving DAC honors was Freshman Tyler Macomber (Elk River, MN) who was a Second Team All-Conference selection. Macomber had eight double-double games on the season and was fourth in the league averaging 7.17 rebounds per contest. The leading scorer of the team was Mike Stowman (Tower City). A junior, Stowman was selected to the Third Team of the DAC honors in part by averaging 11.8 points per game. Another junior, Zac Wolff (Park Rapids, MN) was the final All-Conference selection earning Third Team honors with Stowman. Wolff, was the inside force for the Vikings with 1.43 blocks per game and he was the third leading scorer on the team.

In addition to his landmark win, Coach Kaminsky was recognized by his peer VCSU coaches as the 2007-08 Valley City State University Coach of the Year. With the entire team set to return plus a few key additions, the Vikings Hoops squad looks to continue the high level of success next year.

Also looking ahead to next year, the women's team will lose six seniors from a team that finished 5-23 overall. Improvements coming next year include a stellar recruiting class. Signed recruits include three transfers and a freshman who led Minnesota in scoring and rebounding. ♦

2008–2009 VCSU Theatre Season

October 15–18

The Foreigner

by Larry Shue ~ Vangstad Auditorium

This favorite of VCSU Theatre audiences—and audiences everywhere—will have you laughing out loud. A guest in a rustic country inn is so depressed over a recent divorce that he doesn't want to talk to anyone. Then he overhears some private scandal so urgent that he has to pretend that he is a foreigner who doesn't understand a word of English. His struggle to conceal his abilities while dealing with villains, half-wits, and the Klan is a comic romp like you have never seen before!

February 18–21

Death of a Salesman

by Arthur Miller ~ Vangstad Auditorium

This is America's greatest play, about a man who tries to understand what went wrong in raising his adult sons, Biff and Happy. In a story of success, honesty, and the pursuit of happiness in a time bursting with opportunity, Willy Loman must make important choices for himself and his beloved wife and sons. What can he do to leave his family a happy and honest legacy? Perhaps if we don't feel like a hypocrite once in a while, we haven't set our standards very high. Could this be Willy's challenge?

November 19–22

The Real Inspector Hound

by Tom Stoppard ~ Theatre 320

Who is that dead body lying on the floor? And why doesn't anybody see it? This is funniest twist on Agatha Christie mysteries you will ever see, and the grand lady is nowhere in sight. Go with us to Muldoon Manor, cut off from the world, and watch as Cynthia and Felicity deal with romantic Simon—and the mysterious Magnus—and try to cope with the absurd and hilarious twists in this international favorite comedy.

April 15–18

A Festival of One-Act Plays

by our own students ~ Theatre 320

Again, we don't know what creativity and originality our students will present to us, but we have full confidence that it will be even better than before, as these young people find the comic, the tender, and the hilarity that seems boundless. Be sure to see what our student and community audiences often describe as the best show of the season. See you there!

Chris Mahan Joins VCSU Music Faculty as Director of Percussion Ensemble

Christopher Mahan will assume the duties of Director of VCSU's Percussion Ensemble and Instructor of Percussion in August, 2008. Mahan, a native of Fargo, holds the Bachelor of Music in Percussion Performance from the University of Colorado at Boulder; and the Masters of Music in Percussion Performance and Pedagogy from Northern Illinois University.

Currently a member of the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony, Mahan has performed with *Salsa del Soul*; with NIU's Jazz Lab Band, Percussion Ensemble, and the Latin Jazz Band with the Africa West Trio; with the *Liberace Jazztet* at the Elmhurst Jazz Festival and the Iowa City Jazz Festival; and with the North Dakota All-State Jazz Ensemble, opening for the Maynard Ferguson Big Bop Nouveau. In 2006, Mahan was named the Elmhurst Jazz Festival Outstanding Artist.

His applied instructors have included Rich Holly, Dr. Gregory Beyer, Robert Chappell, John "Chip" Stephens, Dr. Douglas Walter, and Dr. David Eyler. ♦

VCSU Soon To Offer Online Music Program

The VCSU Music Department is in the process of developing an online program to help independent music teachers receive National Certification. National Certification is offered through Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) and requires competency in Performance, Music Theory, Music History, and Piano Pedagogy.

In the Fall semester, the VCSU Music Department will offer all the required semesters of Music Theory, Music History and Piano Pedagogy online. Online jury examinations will also be offered. Teachers from any state will be able to prepare for national certification by taking the online courses through VCSU.

Candidates for certification can either take comprehensive exams in those areas or they can take courses to fulfill the requirements. Four semesters of Music Theory, three semesters of Music History, and two semesters of Piano Pedagogy are required for all piano teachers seeking national certification. The History and Theory are required of teachers of other instruments as well. Performance competency can be met either through applied lessons or a jury examination.

At the MTNA Conference this year, Dr. Sara Hagen and Beth Klingenstein met with the CEO of MTNA, the National Certification Chair, and the Member Services Chair to discuss the innovative program being developed at VCSU. MTNA expressed a great deal of interest in the program and commended the VCSU Music Department for their forward thinking approach to National Certification. ♦

"Friends of Music" Kick Off Fund Drive

"Greetings" to all music alumni from your "Friends of Music" board! Our board is excited about promoting a special initiative to all alumni who were involved in a music performance group here at the University.

Those of you in the education field are already aware of the shortage of music teachers in North Dakota. That shortage will only grow unless we can attract and retain music majors into universities across the state. In order to do that here, VCSU must be proactive in offering scholarships to talented musicians who intend to enter the education field.

We are proposing a challenge to each of you to become a donor to a special "Music Alumni Endowment," from which will come music scholarships. Our goal is to raise at least \$10,000, and we are asking each of you to consider a personal donation of \$100 to kick off this campaign.

Please consider this carefully, as each of us is in a position to be a part of this project that can make such a difference in the lives of future music students at VCSU. Checks can be earmarked, "Music Alumni Endowment", and mailed to: VCSU Foundation; 101 College Street SW; Valley City, North Dakota 58072.

We have chosen a target date for this first campaign of August 1, so please mail your checks today. Thank you for choosing to be a part of this newest "dream" for our music department!

"Friends of Music" Board

Sue German '73 - Oakes, ND Band Director

John Monilaws '87 - Lisbon, ND Band Director

Dale Conrad '84 - Litchville/Marion, ND Band Director

VCSU Hires New Director of Bands



VCSU is pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. James Adams to fill the open position of Director of Bands.

Dr. Adams has earned the Bachelor of Music in Brass Performance and Pedagogy from Brigham Young University; the Master of Music in Trombone Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Maryland-College Park; and the Doctor of Arts in Trombone Performance and Pedagogy/Conducting from the University of Northern Colorado. He also holds a Certificate in Piano Tuning and Repair from the American School of Piano Tuning.

Adams' conducting teachers have included Dr. Russell Guyver, James Ross, and Dr. David Blackinton. His trombone instructors include Dr. Nathaniel Wickham, Dr. Milton Stevens, and Dr. Daniel Bachelder. He has performed with the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, the Denver Philharmonic Orchestra, the Washington Korean Symphony Orchestra, the 2002 Winter Olympic Spirit Band, the 2000 New Years Holland America Cruise Lines Big Band, the University of Northern Colorado Symphony Orchestra, the University of Maryland Symphony Orchestra, the Brigham Young University Jazz Legacy Dixieland Band, and the BYU Jazz Ensemble.

Adams replaces Dr. Sigurd Johnson, who after eight years at VCSU, has accepted a position at NDSU. ♦

Homecoming 2008! Your Alumni Association is Here for you!

Join the Valley City State University Alumni Board of Directors as they launch some new activities for alumni during Homecoming on October 3, 4 & 5, 2008. All the VCSU graduates from the "Eights" (1948, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1998) along with the class of 2003 will be our special guests during Homecoming. Our theme is **"The Eights and Don't be Late!"**

Make plans now to save the date and join us for Homecoming 2008. Make a trip back to the campus of VCSU and see what's new and what might be the same, connect with old friends and have fun! We are still finalizing all the details but some of the fun activities planned are:

October 3... Luncheon, Campus Reception, Campus Tours, Hall of Fame Banquet, and Social

October 4... Honors Breakfast, Parade, Tailgating, Social and Dance

October 5... Brunch and Tree Dedication

We hope to see as many of "Eights" graduates as possible in October, but there are a number of our alumni that we have lost contact with. Please go to our website alumni.vcsu.edu/keepintouch/ and click on "Where Are They" for a list of those lost alumni. If you know how to contact any of them please call our office at 800-532-8641 ext 7203.

All the classes from the "Eights" and class of 2003 will receive registration information in late July. But for now, mark your calendar and plan to come back to your alma mater for Homecoming – you'll be glad you did!

If you have any questions, you can contact Kim Hesch at 845-7203 or kim.hesch@vcsu.edu.

alumni.vcsu.edu

Keep this date open!

Second Annual
Music Scholarship
Fundraiser
Friday, October 17

Dinner & Dance
7:00 pm at the Eagles

Request!

Do you have a fond memory you would like to share, a picture or two from your days at VCSU or a "where are you now" update? Please send these to alumni@vcsu.edu – we will gather all of this information together and put a booklet together for the reunion and also publish it on the website.

In Remembrance

James Eugene Homuth '50, *San Jose, CA*
 Frances (Aune) Heckart '68, *Harrisburg, OR*
 M. Lucille Swenson '60, *Bismarck*
 Rev. Harold G. Nienas '42, *Alta Loma, CA*
 Ruby (Anderson) Pewe '34, *McHenry*
 Magaret "Muggie" (Morken) Osten '40,
Jensen Beach, FL
 Paula (Skabo) Hartze '88, *Devils Lake*
 Christine (Clawson) Kruger, *Jamestown*
 John "Jack" Barner, *Richville, MN*
 Jerome "Swede" Thompson, *Everett, WA*
 Robert M. Ward '66, *Tolna*
 Ruth (Peterson) Sartell '49, *St. Cloud, MN*
 Morgan E. Ford '39, *Arthur*
 Aurene I. Kragness '33, *Wahpeton*
 Luella (Euscher) Hankel, *Lisbon*
 Keith L. Stanton '50, *Tracy, MN*
 Terry Himmerick '79, *Mesa, AZ*
 Katherine (Rott) Schauer, *Bismarck*
 Nina (Harris) Rohrer '32, *Apple Valley, MN*
 Zack R. Shockman, *Oakes*
 Robert N. Price '51, *Columbus, OH*
 Lorraine (Spitzer) Florhaug, *Kensal*
 Marian (Kolstoe) Prior '40, *Fargo*
 Carl G. Stillman, *Lakewood, WA*
 Lydia (Smith) Laschkewitsch '31 & '73, *Bismarck*
 Estella (Cruff) Birkemeyer-Harber '35, *Salem, OR*
 Lorraine (Olson) Andersen, *Watford City*
 James R. Hesch '56, *Janesville, MN*
 Harlan J. Gratz, *Vandalia, OH*
 Inez (Corby) Farr '33, *Sioux Falls, SD*
 Agnes (Arntson) Archbold '35, *Mankato, MN*
 Raymond Guthmiller, *Pettibone*
 Richard D. Fedje '64, *Spearfish, SD*
 Ray G. Wallner '42 & '67, *Sun City, AZ*
 Blanche (Barkley) Holden '56, *Tower City*
 Terry "Mel" Lyman, *West Fargo*
 Raymond J. Kreidlkamp '54, *Valley City*
 Eddie W. Schodt '38, *Charlottesville, VA*
 Douglas J. Anderson '73, *Waynesville, MO*
 Myrna (Knecht) Hastings '59, *Salisbury, MD*
 Louverne (Hankel) Radke, *Wimbledon*
 Caroline F. Hatch '49, *Carrington*
 Charles "Chuck" Mahar, *Callaway, MN*
 Ethel (Pearson) Fish, *Larimore*

Former Faculty & Staff

Ruth (Washburn) Huovinen
 Clifford "Pete" Allen

Vikings on the Move

1920s

Marguerite (Flahaven) De Groot '27 celebrated her 101st birthday in Newport Beach, CA with her daughter. She taught school in North Dakota, Montana, and 32 years in California, the last 19 of which were in special education for the visually handicapped in public schools.

1930s

Edna (Supler) Miller '33 taught eight years, the last two in Adrian, ND. She then got married and has lived in Adrian ever since. She was the postmaster for over 34 years, and retired in 1977. Edna took up oil painting as a hobby.

1940s

Loren Law '42 and wife, Arlene, spent the winter in their condo in Florida on Singer Island. They celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary on April 9, 2008. They have a wonderful family: 4 sons, 7 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Virginia (Mosher) Homan '43 takes part in the fellowship of the United Presbyterian churches' groups. She delivers bulletins at the Rose Manor and the Rose Court to inactive members who reside there, and visits many others. At times, she takes goodies for their enjoyment. She still lives in her own home, enjoys bridge, P.E.O., letters, writing (the old fashioned way), and keeping her albums current. Family and friends are always welcome. She began 2008 at a special graduation celebration for her granddaughter, Caroline Homan Narum, as she received her master's. A great way to start a new year.

Mervin Danforth '48 celebrated his 80th birthday this year. He and Shirley also celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary. They are in relatively good health and are grateful for that.

1950s

Jane (Sheldon) Knecht '51 took an Alaskan cruise in September with her sister **Joanne '60** and her husband **Lloyd Reynolds '59**. Jane continues to live in Fargo about six months and the other months at their cabin in Minnesota.

Owen Wallace '54 turned 80 on April 9, 2008. He has children and grandchildren that also graduated from VCSU: **Laurie (Wallace) Foss, Brooke (Sellie) Anderson '02, and Cory Foss.**

Marlow Gudmundson '55 retired from teaching and coaching in 1995. He's been traveling and cruising. He now works for Robcon Realty. Marlow earned 13 letters for athletics at Valley City State.

JoAnn (Richardson) Gregory '55 and husband, Bill, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They went on a cruise this year. JoAnn and Bill have been Arizona residents since 1994, but continue to spend some time in Minnesota during the summer months.

Marlyn (Parfit) Domek '56 has been widowed six years, but still resides on their farm at Ypsilanti, ND. She has 2 grown sons, 2 lovely daughter-in-laws and 4 wonderful grandsons. She still travels, driving to her sons' homes in Wibaux, MT and Des Moines, IA. Marilyn bowls in a league and travels with friends or with her bank on guided bus tours. Mowing her huge farmstead yard keeps her busy during the summers.

Gordon '56 and Reita (Schnell) Lutz '57 again spent last summer at their Valley City home. They enjoyed visiting with classmates at the 40's high school reunion. Every fall they enjoy the region's fall turkey dinner before leaving the winter weather behind. They spend a lot of time at Redmond, WA where their three grandchildren attend a private Christian school, and where their family gathers for the Christmas holidays. The winters in Mesa are delightful and allow daily exercise outside.

Eileen (Olson) '56 and Dale Peterson '57 moved to their lake home near Detroit Lakes, MN after living in Grafton, ND for 44 years. They again enjoyed the VCSU reunion held in Mesa last February.

Shirley (Lien) Grondahl '59 has enjoyed retired life in the same house and town for the last 45 years. She doesn't go south for the winter, but does take a few short trips and does quite a bit of volunteer work. Her son and family live in Boise, so she and her husband get up there now and then. Their other son and his wife still live in Bismarck.

Edmund Motl '59 and his wife, Marilyn, spent another winter in Texas. The weather has been good for golf and all the other activities they have there.

1960s

Verda (Job) Tschritter '61 lived in Rochester, MN for 37 years where she taught and earned a master's degree in counseling and an Ed. Sp. degree in administration from Winona State University. Presently Verda substitute teaches. Her husband, Reuben, works part time at NDSU. They have one son, Tim, who lives in Minnetonka, MN.

John Leininger '62 is a board member of the National Community Education Association, Region VI. He is also chairman of the National Center for Rural Revitalization.

Richard Greene '62 and partner, Sam Brungardt, will celebrate their 25th anniversary in June. They live in a beautiful craftsman home near Lake Como in St. Paul, MN which was recently featured in a book by the American Bungalow Society. Richard retired in 2001 after 42 years of teaching. Sam will retire in two years and they will move to the farm where he will return to his roots.

Jerry Estenson '62 teaches at Nankai University in Tianjin, China two to three times a year in addition to teaching at his home university. He still likes looking at the other side of the mountain.

Bob Bender '64 is enjoying good health, four super grandkids, considerable travel, fishing and volunteer work with the church. He is now project manager for a \$1.2 million renovation of their church facility.

Marilyn (Lunneborg) Worner '65 and her husband, Michael, are both retired educators and live in Mayville, ND. They spend summers at White Earth Lake in Minnesota.

Richard Swanson '66 retired from West Fargo High School in 1996 and now lives on the family farm in Ottertail County, MN on Dead Lake. He is employed full time as a field service professional for John Deere Risk Protection.

Merle Johnson '66 retired on February 1, 2008. His last work position was with the Ford dealership in Williston, ND. He remarried one year ago and lives with his wife Carol in Steele, ND.

Robert Simonson '66 retired in June, 2007 after serving 41 years in education, the last 32 years as the principal at East Grand Forks Central Middle School.

Margaret (Dronen) Botnen '67 began her teaching education at Dickinson State Teachers College receiving her Second Grade Professional in 1938. Her teaching began in rural schools, which she truly loved. She also taught in the consolidated towns of Driscoll and Steele. She ended her teaching career in the Bismarck Public Schools after nearly 40 years. Margaret's first husband, Joel Erickson, passed away on April 1, 1966. They had four children. Her second husband passed away in July of 2007. She celebrated her 90th birthday on February 3.

Jean (Henrickson) Peterson '68 has retired after 28 years of teaching at Leonard Public School and Kindred Public School. Her retirement plans include spending time with her eight grandchildren.

Bob '68 and Linda (Sander) McKenzie '70 are both retired from the Springfield, OR school system. They took a six week vacation to New Zealand, Australia, and Fiji.

Adam '68 and Cecelia (Jorgenson) Baumstarck '60 are retired and live in Linton, ND during May through December and in Mesa during January through April. They have 13 grandchildren. They would love to hear from classmates at VCSU.

Diane (Miller) Kouba '68 retired June 8, 2007. She took care of her 15 month old grandson, Jack, for 10 days while his parents were at the Stem Cell Conference in Australia. Wow! She has traveled to Lansing, MI; Las Vegas, NV; North Dakota; Plano, TX; and many stops in Wisconsin. Her father, James Miller, passed away on January 29. He was 93 years young. Her family took turns with his care. Diane's family is all well and busy.

Gene Boyle '69 is principal at Moorhead High School. The school received two honors during the school year. It received a silver medal in the nationwide ranking of public high schools by *U.S. News & World Report* magazine. Moorhead High School employees were also recognized by the Minnesota Center for Reading Research two consecutive school years (2005-06 and 2006-07) for making significant progress in teaching students to read.

Lynn (Neustel) Dewitz '69 was selected to attend the International Institute of Education, which was held in Japan for two weeks during the summer of 2007. Out of 500 high school teachers from all over the US that applied, only 40 were chosen. Toyota Corporation sponsored the trip. Lynn is spending a year presenting what she learned. She continues to teach high school art from the Steele-Dawson School over interactive television for the Great Western Network Consortium.

Janie (Burchill) Anderson '69 and her husband, Dwight, have a fourth grandchild that was born in October, Greta Shockey. She joins her cousins: Jazmine, Jonathan and Jaxon Hill.

Louise Broten '69 completed her master's degree in English/literature option at NDSU in 2007, proving we are never too old for anything. She still appreciates the foundation laid at VCSU so many years ago.

Mary (Zwinger) Reese '69 and her husband, Larry, live in Gilbert, AZ. Mary is currently the assistant principal at St. John Bosco Interparish School in Phoenix. They just purchased lake property near Aitkin, MN. Upon retirement, they hope to spend six months at the lake and the other time in Arizona for the best of both worlds.

Jay Morgan '69 has spent 35 years in Sarasota, FL. He still comes back to his home town of Valley City and Valley City State University every Father's Day weekend which is the same time as Rally in the Valley. It's a great time to meet lifetime friends and see many familiar smiling faces.

Iris (Dwyer) Fogderud '69 has resided in Fargo since 1987. She is widowed (Gerald) and has four daughters and two grandchildren. She has been a costumer for the opera since 2001, and now is the office manager and costumer. Come and take in an opera!

1970s

Leroy Wegenast '70 is in his 31st year with the family business, Lifestyle Appliance and Entertainment Center, after teaching for seven years in Jamestown. Leroy and wife, Leanna, and son, Colin, are all involved.

Craig Sturlaugson '70 continues to enjoy his retirement from teaching, but still coaches basketball and softball at Centennial and teaches "behind the wheel" driver education. He ushers at Twins games in his spare time. Pam gives piano lessons and is the church pianist. Both enjoy their three grandchildren: Isabella (10), Jamie (5), and Alex (3).

Rod Olin '71 retired from the North Dakota National Guard in March, 2006. He is back working as an army contractor with the Jamestown Family Assistance Center supporting families of deployed soldiers.

Judy (Sorby) Streich '72 had ten glorious days in Hawaii over Christmas 2007 and New Years 2008 with her daughter, her son-in-law, her son-in-law's mom, and three grandkids. She enjoyed the beautiful scenery, weather and people. She is planning a trip to Norway in the next couple of years.

Margie Nelson '73 is still teaching in New London, WI and is looking forward to retirement. Retirement will allow her to golf, garden and see more of the USA in her RV.

Sue (Holmes) German '73 is in her 11th year as band director at Oakes Public School. Last May, the band played at the UN Headquarters while they were on a trip to New York. This March, the Oakes Jazz band will perform at the North Dakota Music Educators' Conference in Bismarck for one of the concert hours.

Weddings

Katie Shaw '07
& Matt Kelly May 17, 2008

Greg Dobitz '05
& Krista Forward June 7, 2008

Patti Gruman '06
& Peter Jewett June 7, 2008

Sarah Lusby '04
& Shawn Ratts June 21, 2008

Heather Heck '08
& Tony Jenkins June 21, 2008

Sara Nicoli '02
& James Christensen June 28, 2008

Sarah Logan '05
& Mike Lacher July 12, 2008

Stephanie Trautman '07
& Stephen Kyle Roelfsema July 12, 2008

Cheryl (Malard) Helm '74 retired on May 23, 2007 from full-time teaching. The week she announced her retirement, she had three job offers. The job she took is teaching two days a week in a one room country school for grades K-7. She has six students and loves it! Her other days are spent doing whatever she likes. Cheryl and her husband, Chuck, are doing some home fix-ups, gardening and taking bicycle trips.

Joe Vandrovec '74 is regional sales manager for Micro Crystal, a division at the Swatch Group USA. His 3 boys are: 29, 24, and 21. He has lived in southern California since 1984 and enjoys riding his surf board up and down the coast. Joe has been married to a good woman, Barbara, for 33 years.

Janel (Dockter) Fortney '75 is in her 33rd year of teaching business education, the last 18 at New Rockford, ND. She is married to Paul Fortney, who is the owner of Viking Electric, and has three children: Jon (29), Jacob (24) and Rachel (20).

Janet Simon '75 would love to hear from her old dorm friends from 1971-75. You can reach her at jsimon@clevelandhill.org. All is well in New York!

Boyd '75 and Kathy (Shape) Sussex '74 have lived in Milbank, SD for 21 years. Boyd retired from coaching and is now the athletic director. Kathy is still the high school coordinator for the At-Risk program. **Jackson Sussex** graduated from VCSU this May with a business administration degree and is hoping to find employment in the Fargo area.

Janis (Paulson) Wallender '77 continues to work as the elementary and middle school counselor in Beulah. She and her husband are eagerly awaiting a trip to Ireland to visit their daughter, Kylie. They will be enjoying this trip with their other daughters, Kelcey and Karlee. Janis has enjoyed her years on the VCSU Alumni Board and encourages other alumni to consider service on the board.

David Katzenmeyer '78 and his wife are still teaching at Falcon Ridge Middle School: David in art and Laurie in Spanish. They have two little boys, Nick (7), is in the first grade and Daniel (6) is in kindergarten. David's eldest son, Tark (28), is in his fourth year of teaching band in Tampa Bay, FL. Hello to all VCSU alumni from Apple Valley. Go Vikings!

Donn '79 and Kristi (Froeber) Frahm '80 have lived in New Rockford since 1982. Donn continues his life as an insurance agent and as president of the New Rockford-Sheyenne School board. Kristi is in her 24th year of teaching English and is employed by the New Rockford-Sheyenne School District. Kendall, a 7th grader, and Whitney, a senior at Concordia College, are doing well.

1980s

Alan '80 and Nancy (Pederson) Sorensen '75 have been back in Valley City since 1984. Al is a guidance counselor at the junior high school and Nancy is an optician. Their three daughters are doing well: **Erin Metcalf '06**, works for Cargill, Krista is a sophomore at VCSU, and Alison will be a freshman at VCSU in the Fall of 2008.

Robert Ness Jr. '81 has been in Woodbury, MN for 10 years. Bob and his wife, Sumitra, both work for 3M. Samantha (18) attends Iowa State. She was short stop for Woodbury's first participation in state fastpitch softball. Mike (16) is a goalie on Woodbury's hockey team.

Nanette (Peterson) Hoover '81 sends greetings from Minnesota. There have been many changes in the Hoover household. Her daughter, Erin, graduated from NDSU, moved home and is working full-time and going to graduate school. Phillip is working full-time for Nanette's youngest brother. Her job at HealthPartners was eliminated and she is working at Stanford University in San Francisco.

Tamara (Brown) Flink '81 is in her 27th year of teaching. The first 20 were in Milton-Osnabrock. She is in her seventh year at Langdon, ND teaching 3rd grade. She is coaching volleyball and jr. high basketball. Her three children are all grown up and out in the real world. Her husband, Jeff, is still farming.

Kevin Froeber '83 is finishing his 19th year (25 years total) of teaching and coaching for the West Fargo School District, and he will also be completing his master's degree in education leadership by the end of 2008. His wife, Michelle, works for Prudential LRES Reality in Fargo. They have two sons: David (7) is in first grade and Michael (4) is in pre-school.

Rynette (Hjelmstad) Burckhard '84 has taught school for 20 years. The last 12 years have been at Roosevelt Elementary in Minot, ND teaching 4th grade. She and Bryon have been married 22 years. They have two daughters: Bethanie (18) and Kristin (16).

Steven Guenther '84 is living in Mahanomen, MN and working as a substitute teacher in Mahanomen, Waubun, and the Circle of Life School in White Earth. Erin (14) and Elizabeth (11) are enjoying the great outdoors with farm life, hunting and fishing in the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

Coleen (Ellefson) Asche '86 is still teaching math in Grand Forks for the 22nd year. Rick and Coleen keep busy chasing their three girls around, watching all their volleyball and basketball games. She still tries to keep in contact with fellow VCSU grads, especially her Delphi sisters.

Lana (Atkinson) Wietgreffe '86 had the opportunity to move back to her hometown of Britton, SD. That opportunity included a big career change: she works as a farm marketing

consultant/commodity broker. Her four kids, Amy (17), Andrew (16), Erica (13) and Eli (11), keep her hopping with all their activities. She spends any free time with her boyfriend, Brian, working with his cattle and having fun.

Theresa (Law) Birklied '87 is currently the operations group manager at Alco in Lisbon, ND. She is living on a ranch near Ft. Ransom, ND, where her husband raises registered Charolais cattle and farms. They have three kids: Katelyn (18), Tanya (16) and Jacob (11).

Lorrie (Kirsch) Milford '87 and husband, Rich, are busy enjoying retirement in McAllister, MT. Fly fishing is outstanding on the Madison River.

William '87 and Michele (Bischoff) Trader '86 continue to work for the Internal Revenue Service in Grand Forks. Bill is a group manager for the large and mid-sized business division with employees in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Michele works for an abusive transactions group in the small business self employed division. Their children, Jennifer (11) and Matthew (6), keep them busy with school and sports and the whole family is involved in pitching horseshoes.

Linette (Anderson) Kratochvil '87 has been married to Merle for 20 years in October, 2008. They have two sons ages 32 and 30, and a daughter, 12. Merle farms and hauls cars. Linette helps with the farm and raises meat goats to help feed the world. They are working with other landowners to keep the toxic tar sands oil out of the US.



Walt Johnson '89, owner of Walock-Johnson Insurance, Inc in Lisbon, Milnor and Rutland was elected to the office of president of the North Dakota Professional Insurance Agents Association (NDPIA). He was elected from a field of independent insurance agents throughout the state.

He has served on the NDPIA Board as a director and officer the last 4 years. He is a member of Kiwanis and Lisbon Civic and Commerce. Walt has served on Trinity Lutheran's Church Council and is secretary of the men's club. Presently he serves on the Lisbon City Council and also is a member of the RCIS national advisory council. He and his wife, Melissa, have three sons: Garrett, Grant and Gannon. He enjoys officiating wrestling, hunting and fishing in his spare time.

Gary '89 and Joanne (Wieland) Schafer '89 now live in Aurora, IL just outside of Chicago. Look them up if you are in the area and check out one of their new ventures at www.wine-chicago.com.

Mary Halvorson '89 is currently in her seventh year of teaching 2nd grade at Jefferson Elementary in Valley City after spending 12 years teaching 1st grade in Carrington, ND. She spends her summer months working for Bank Forward in the crop insurance department.

1990s

Ellen (Musgrave) Berg '90 retired from South Dakota State University in June, 2007. She had worked as a interlibrary loan-lending tech at

Bridge Library for 12 years. She loved her job and her library co-workers. She is now thoroughly enjoying retirement and the fact that her schedule is all her own! Ellen has more time to enjoy her six grandchildren, read, do handwork and catch up with all those things she had limited time to do while working full-time.

Barb (Preston) Schmitt '90 is still happily teaching students with Autism. Because of the construction slow-down, **Dean Schmitt '92**, is looking for something new. Bryant, their oldest, is a freshman at the U of M. Breanna is a senior and DeAnn is in 6th grade. Dean and Barb are very proud of all they do.

Heidi (Lucht) Schneider '92 is in her fifth year at Lake Region State College teaching information technology. She has been married five years to Jay Schneider and they have two children, Caleb (4) and Callie (1).

Andrew '94 and Connie (Franklund) Schafer '92 both teach at Elbert County Schools in Elbert, CO. They have three sons, Noah (12) is in 6th grade, and twins Sam and Gabe (8) are in the 2nd grade. They all attend Elbert County School District 200. Andrew and Connie are enjoying their time in Colorado and they value the liberal arts education VCSU provided them. Good luck Vikings in the coming years!

Bryan '97 and Karla (Ihry) Gerhardt '97 have been married 11 years in June. Bryan has worked for 3M for over a year. Previously, they both worked for Kimberly-Clark for 9 years in Appleton, WI. They now reside in Aberdeen, SD where Bryan is a process engineer and Karla is a "stay at home mom" for their 3 kids: Megan (15), Madison (13), and Nicholas (14 months).

Kevin Trotter '98 is currently serving as a Federal SRF officer at the United States' largest hydroelectricity producing dam.

Marlo Meikle '98 is doing case management in Jamestown, ND. She is getting married in October of 2008. Her daughter, Thressa, is 10 years old and doing well, too.

Nicky (Vigen) Robinson '99 had an extremely busy year. Her family of five has increased by two. On April Fools Day, she gave birth to twin boys, Eli and Ezra, who join her other 3 children: Lili (8), Seth (5), and Riley (2). She feels blessed to have all her kids. She would love to hear from the friends she made while at VCSU. She is currently teaching kindergarten in Minto, ND. If you are ever in the area look her up!

2000s

Dustin '00 and Jodi (Garman) Flaten '01 moved to Hawley, MN after teaching and coaching in Lemmon, SD for the past six to seven years. They now teach and coach for the Ulen-Hitterdal, MN School District. They are enjoying it very much, especially the being closer to friends and family.

Douglas Cox '00 was named the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year for the Blaine, MN store in 2007, and now has been honored with a nomination for Minnesota Teacher of the Year for 2008. He was 1 of 117 other teachers nominated throughout the state. He was not selected as a semi-finalist, but having received a nomination was quite a thrill. He is still teaching a looping class of 4th and 5th grade students in the Spring Lake Park School district.

MILESTONES



LEFT Cindy (Mund) Brown '00 and Jon Brown had a baby boy, Drew Edward, on June 19, 2007.

BOTTOM LEFT Leah Paulson '06 gave birth to daughter, Izabella Rayne Paulson, on November 21, 2007 at 6:35 am. She weighed 8 pounds and was 19 3/4 inches long. This photo is of her at approximately 1 month old.

BOTTOM RIGHT Randi (Tompt) '06 and Matt Buttke were married on December 29, 2007 at Faith Lutheran Church in Valley City. Randi is employed by Grotberg Electric and Matt farms near Fingal, ND. The couple resides in Valley City.



Foth is Teacher of the Year

The following is reprinted with permission of the Valley City Times Record.

Carol (Strand) Foth '72 was recently named "Teacher of the Year" by the Valley City Education Association, and was nominated by students and peers for a Northern Interscholastic Press Association award.

A native of Nome, Foth graduated from Fingal High School and received her education degree at VCSU. She began teaching as a paraprofessional in the Valley City School District, and then became a substitute teacher. Eventually she became a teacher of art and journalism. Foth is also known for her work in the drama department. Before coming to VCHS, Foth taught art, English and home economics in the Maple Valley School District.

Foth said she can't remember a time when she didn't want to be a teacher. "The more I teach the more it becomes wonderful. Every time I'm up against the wall, a kid gets up on stage and knocks my socks off. I was truly born to do the job I'm doing."

Teaching is by no means an easy profession. Foth finds that her greatest challenge comes from within. "I think of how much I challenge myself to do a better job of teaching so I can give them as much as is humanly possible without overwhelming them," Foth said.

Despite the challenges, Foth has a never-ending supply of enthusiasm for teaching. Part of that enthusiasm probably comes from the support of those around her. "I just feel like the Valley City School system is a wonderful place to teach," Foth said. "I'm lucky not only to teach but to teach here." ♦



Douglas Murch '02 will start at the Conmy Feste Law Firm in September, 2008.

Ryan Hoyt '03 accepted a position as a human resource assistant for Anoka Ramsey Community College in Coon Rapids, MN in September.

Andrew '05 and Angela (Ressler) Fischer '05 have two children, Faith(4) and Ross (1).

Naomi (Tschaekofske) Karlin '06 is teaching art at Seward High School in Seward, AK.

Katie (Shaw) Kelly '07 married her high school sweetheart, Matt Kelly, on May 17, 2008. They both grew up in Fridley, MN. Matt is a P3 pharmacy student at NDSU.

Trista Williams '06 obtained her Bachelor of Science in art and Certificate in digital design and then attended Universal Technical Institute in Houston, TX. She graduated from their 54 week program, Automotive Repair and Refinishing, as a certified body and paint technician. She now works for Progressive Insurance as a professional estimator for automotive and continues to use her art talents by taking jobs for custom work on automotive as well as wall murals on the weekends. She has enjoyed the weather down there but misses walking to class in the snow! Hi to the Philos!

Tara (Feuerherm) Moore '02 just finished her 3rd year as a counselor at Burchell High School (an alternative high school) in Wasilla, Alaska. She taught in the Wasilla Middle School for 2 years and this Fall 2008 she will transfer back to Wasilla Middle School as their counselor. Tara received her Master of Education in guidance and counseling from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2005. She is also the project coordinator/facilitator with Project Adventure, a non-profit, experimental adventure program that utilizes teambuilding activities, low elements, and high ropes elements to promote leadership and teambuilding in the school. Tara is married to **Jason Moore '00** who has taught 8th grade science at Wasilla Middle School for 6 years. He will start his new position this fall 2008 as assistant principal. Jason received his Master of Education in administration in 2006. Both Tara and Jason are instructors with Snowdays, an all-volunteer organization dedicated to youth empowerment through snowboarding. In the summer, they also work at Alaska Sky Sports as camera flyers.





VCSU

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